Testimony of Attorney Sinclair Williams
New Haven Legal Assistance Association
In Support of SB 143
An Act Concerning Eviction for Cause
February 20, 2024

I urge you to support SB 143, which expands the Good Cause Eviction Protections to all tenants in buildings or complexes of 5 or more rental units, with an amendment to further expand these protections to all units in buildings that are not owner occupied.

I work as an attorney at New Haven Legal Assistance representing tenants in the greater New Haven area and helping them with their housing problems. Last year I met 9 tenants who lived in three family buildings owned by the same landlord. Some had lived in their apartments for 2-5 years, and several had lived in their apartments for decades. One day they all woke up to eviction notices for lapse of time. An LLC investor landlord had bought their homes, and without so much as a “hello” immediately sent them all eviction notices.

The landlord never introduced himself. He did not know the tenants names or stories. He did not ask about what jobs they work: they are health workers, contractors, remediation workers, and government employee. He did not know that some of them are elderly and disabled. He did not care how many children they had who could end up homeless in the middle of winter. He did not know about the cultures they came from and all of our diverse cultural backgrounds that they brought to the neighborhood.

He did not treat these tenants like human beings. He treated them like objects to be thrown out.

I urge you to adopt SB 143, with amendments, to bring prevent such inhumane treatment.

Thank you,

Sinclair Williams
New Haven Legal Assistance Association.